

COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE BUDGET SESSION, 1120

Monday, the 30th July 1945
15th Karkadagam 1120

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at half past Eleven of the Clock with the Hon'ble President (Sir GEORGE BOAG, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.) in the chair.

All the members were present.

SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS

The following members were sworn in.—

1. Rao Sahib J. N. Menon
2. Mr. K. S. Raghavan
3. Dr. S. S. Rao
4. Mr. M. Sivarama Menon

OPENING SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT

Mr. President: Honourable Members,

Since last I addressed this Council important events have occurred both in this State and abroad. Here we have had a general election and it is largely a new Council which I now have the honour and the pleasure to address; and abroad the war in Europe has come to an end with the complete defeat of Germany by the combined forces of Russia, the U.S.A., Great Britain and France. Hon'ble Members will bear with me if before I deal with the matters which constitute the business of the coming Session, I make brief references to these events.

The victory won over Germany is an achievement of the first magnitude and all those who have in any way contributed to it are entitled to the warmest congratulations and the highest esteem of every one who values the cause of justice and fair dealing as between nation and nation. It will always be a matter of pride and gratification that so many sons of India played an honourable and effective part in winning this victory; and Hon'ble Members will all be glad to think that more than one subject of this State has won credit and renown for himself and for the State, which is his home, on the battlefields of Africa, Sicily and Italy. It was a matter of pride to every subject of His Highness when the Military Medal was awarded to L/Nk. Paramu for gallant services in Burma. But let no one think that the war is over—and let no one relax his efforts or revert to the easy-going ways of a piece-time world until Japan has been reduced to the condition in which Germany finds herself today. Indeed it may well be that as India is nearer to Japan, she will be called upon to put forward an even greater effort than she has done hitherto to secure an early victory over that enemy. I am quite certain that in order to achieve this end Hon'ble Members and indeed all subjects of His Highness will be ready and willing to make any further effort or to offer any further sacrifice which may be required of them. Peace is a condition necessary for progress, political economic and social; and therefore the restoration of peace must be the first consideration in all our discussions.

The General Election which returned the elected element in this Council was preceded by a revision of the electoral rolls at which rather more than 1,40,000 voters were registered. Special provision was made for the enrolment of men otherwise qualified who are out of the State with one of the Defence Services; but these facilities were availed of only by 17 persons. Similarly provision was made for men on service whose names were included in the electoral rolls to vote by proxy—and this opportunity was taken by 49 of them. The election was conducted under the "coloured box" system which involves very complicated arrangements at the polling booths. The Government has received a number of complaints regarding mistakes in the preparation of the electoral rolls and also regarding the conduct of the election by some of the polling officers. Allegations regarding such defects are also made in some of the ten election petitions which will shortly be enquired into by the Election Tribunal which has been consti-

CLC I—1